

APPENDIX F: CONSULTATION



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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In Reply Refer to:

AESO/SE

02-21-89-I-0106-R1

April 29, 2004

Ms. Lenore Grover-Bullington
Grand Canyon National Park
823 North San Francisco Street Ste B
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Dear Ms. Grover-Bullington:

On March 23, 2004, we received your memorandum regarding review of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ADEIS). Your memorandum indicated that the attached ADEIS was being provided so that we could become familiar with the draft preferred alternatives and the potential impacts they may have on biological resources along the river. Your memorandum indicated that you would accept comments on the ADEIS until April 2, 2004, but that you were primarily interested in a list of species that should be included in a biological assessment of the proposed action.

Unfortunately, the timeframe provided was too short for us to review the ADEIS and provide comments by April 2. We understand that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) may be available for review by May 15, 2004. Please advise us whether you want comments on the ADEIS at this point and/or whether review of the DEIS may be more useful to you.

In addition to the general information below that we routinely provide in response to requests for formal consultation, we offer the following list of species that may be appropriate for consideration in your biological assessment of the proposed action.

bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - threatened
California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) - threatened (in Grand Canyon NP)
Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) - threatened
southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) - endangered
Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) - endangered
humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) - endangered
razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) - endangered
Kanab ambersnail (*Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis*) - endangered
yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) - candidate
relict leopard frog (*Rana onca*) - candidate

For species lists, the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office has posted lists of the endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species occurring in each of Arizona's 15 counties on the Internet. Please refer to the following web page for species information in the county where your project occurs: <http://arizonaes.fws.gov>. If you have difficulty obtaining a list, please contact our office and we will mail or fax you a list as soon as possible.

After opening the web site, click the Threatened and Endangered button on the left hand side of the page. Then scroll to the bottom of the page where there is a map of Arizona. You can either click on your county of choice on the map or from the list. The arrows on the left will guide you through the information on the species that are listed, proposed, candidates, or have conservation agreements. Here you will find information on the species' status, a physical description, and counties where the species occurs, habitat, elevation, and some general comments. Additional information can be obtained by going back to the main page. On the left side of the screen, click on Document Library, then click on Documents by Species, then click on the name of the species of interest to obtain General Species Information, or other documents that may be available. Click on the cactus icon to view the desired document.

Please note that your action area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. The information provided includes general descriptions, habitat requirements, and other information of each species on the list. Under the General Species Information, citations for the Federal Register (FR) are included for each listed and proposed species. The FR is available at most public libraries, and on the Internet. This information should assist you in determining which species may or may not occur within the action area. Site-specific surveys could also be helpful and may be needed to verify the presence or absence of a species or its habitat as required for the evaluation of proposed project-related impacts. We are also prepared to assist you in defining a species list for your project, particularly when we know more about the extent of the action.

Endangered and threatened species are protected by Federal law and must be considered prior to project development. If the action agency determines that listed species or critical habitat may be adversely affected by a federally funded, permitted or authorized activity, the action agency will need to request formal consultation with us. If the action agency determines that the planned action may jeopardize a proposed species or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat, the action agency will need to enter into a section 7 conference. The county list may also contain candidate species. Candidate species are those for which there is sufficient information to support a proposal for listing. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Act, we recommend that they be considered in the planning process in the event that they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. In addition to species listed under the Act, we recommend you consider species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

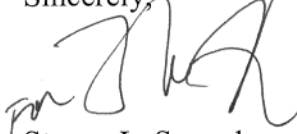
If any proposed action occurs in or near areas with trees and shrubs growing along watercourses, known as riparian habitat, we recommend the protection of these areas. Riparian areas are critical to biological community diversity and provide linear corridors important to migratory species. In addition, if the project will result in the deposition of dredged or fill materials into

waterways, we recommend you contact the Army Corps of Engineers which regulates these activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The State of Arizona and some of the Native American Tribes protect some plant and animal species not protected by Federal law. We recommend you contact the Arizona Departments of Game and Fish, and Agriculture for State-listed or sensitive species, or contact the appropriate Native American Tribe to determine if sensitive species are protected by Tribal governments in your action area. We recommend that you invite the Arizona Game and Fish Department and any Native American Tribes in or near your project area to participate in your information or formal section 7 consultation process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed action. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Austin (928) 226-0614 x102 or Brenda Smith (x101).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Spangle', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven L. Spangle
Field Supervisor

cc: Director, Science Center, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon AZ
Chief, Habitat Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix AZ